

# State of Connecticut Mosquito Management Program

## POSITIVE MOSQUITOS TRAPPED IN DARIEN

**August 23, 2006** – The State Mosquito Management Program today announced that an elderly resident of New Haven died due to complications of West Nile virus (WNV) infection. The New Haven resident, a person over 75 years, became ill during the second week of August. **The Mosquito Management Program reminds residents in all areas of Connecticut that August and September are the peak months for transmission of WNV to people.**

The state also announced today that mosquitoes trapped in Darien, Hartford and Stamford on August 15 tested positive for WNV.

One other human case of WNV associated illness among Connecticut residents has been identified this year. The resident of Bristol, a person over 75 years, became ill during the first week of July with fever, headache, nausea, and body aches. The person was not hospitalized and has recovered.

Most people who are infected with WNV and become ill will have a mild illness that may include fever, headache, body aches, nausea, vomiting, or a skin rash. Infrequently, people develop severe illness of the nervous system that can also include neck stiffness, disorientation, loss of consciousness, tremors, muscle weakness, and paralysis. Persons older than 50 years of age are more likely than younger persons to suffer the most severe health consequences if they become infected with WNV.

The State of Connecticut Mosquito Management Program is an interagency program consisting of the Department of Environmental Protection, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Agriculture, and the University of Connecticut Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science.

### **Precautions to avoid mosquito bites and reduce mosquitoes around the home include:**

- Minimize time outdoors at dusk and dawn

- Be sure door and window screens are tight fitting and in good repair
- Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long-sleeved shirts. Clothing material should be tightly woven
- Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors
- Consider using mosquito repellent when it is necessary to be outdoors and always use them according to label instructions
- When using DEET (the most widely used insect repellent), use the lowest concentration effective for the time spent outdoors (for example, 6% lasts approximately 2 hours and 20% for 4 hours) and wash treated skin when returning indoors. Do not apply under clothing, to wounds or irritated skin, the hands of children, or to infants less than 2 months
- Dispose of water-holding containers, such as ceramic pots, used tires, tire swings
- Drill holes in the bottom of containers such as those used for recycling
- Clean clogged roof gutters
- Turn over objects that may trap water when not in use such as wading pools and wheelbarrows
- Change water in bird baths on a weekly basis
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, and when not in use, pool covers
- Use landscaping to eliminate areas where water can collect on your property.

**Additional resources for information on West Nile virus and mosquito management:**

- The Department of Public Health website at <http://dph.state.ct.us>
- The Department of Environmental Protection's mosquito information line (866) WNV-LINE (1-866-968-5463) or (860) 424-4184.
- The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Web site at <http://www.caes.state.ct.us>
- The Department of Agriculture Web site at <http://www.state.ct.us/doag>
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <http://www.cdc.gov>